

Message Text

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21

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123358 TOSEC 130020

FOLLOWING REPEAT THE HAGUE 2765 ACTION SECSTATE BERN BONN
CAPE TOWN LAGOS LONDON PARIS PRETORIA USERDA GERMANTOWN IAEA
VIENNA 19 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2765

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, EIND, ENGR, SF, NL

SUBJ: US-DUTCH-SWISS REACTOR SALE TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: THE HAGUE 2722

1. SUMMARY: THE CABINET MET TWICE ON MAY 18 AND IS
MEETING AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON MAY 19 UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO
DEAL WITH ISSUE WHETHER TO APPROVE A CREDIT GUARANTEE
FOR DUTCH PORTION OF REACTOR SALE TO SOUTH AFRICA.
PRIMIN DEN UYL IS NOW CONSULTING LEADERS OF ALL THE
PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES. OUTCOME REMAINS UNCERTAIN.
END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER DISCUSSION THAT LASTED UNTIL EARLY THIS MORNING
THE CABINET REMAINS DEEPLY DIVIDED OVER
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WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE AN EXPORT CREDIT

GUARANTEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF PARTS FOR TWO NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL HAS ASKED TO SEE THE LEADERS OF ALL FIVE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES REPRESENTED IN GOVERNMENT COALITION IN SEPARATE MEETINGS TODAY PRIOR TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE CABINETS DELIBERATIONS LATE THIS EVENING.

3. A MEMBER OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT WHO HAS HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH TWO CABINET MEMBERS TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER AT LUNCHEON TODAY THAT THE SPLIT IN THE CABINET IS NOW NINE TO EIGHT AGAINST THE GUARANTEE. (AS THERE ARE ONLY 16 MEMBERS OF CABINET, THIS BREAKDOWN APPARENTLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT PRIME MINISTERS EXTRA VOTE IN CASE OF A TIE.) OUR CONTACT SAID THAT CONFESSIONAL CABINET MEMBERS WERE SO WORKED UP LAST NIGHT THAT THEY THREATENED TO BRING DOWN GOVERNMENT IF OPPONENTS OF CREDIT GUARANTEE PREVAILED. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, CABINET FINALLY AGREED HAVE PRIMIN DISCUSS MATTER WITH PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS TO SEE IF THEY AGREEABLE LET STATES GENERAL TAKE FINAL DECISION. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD APPARENTLY INVOLVE CABINET GIVING ITS APPROVAL FOR GUARANTEE CONDITIONAL UPON PARLIAMENT ACQUIESENCE. IF THAT ROUTE SELECTED, VOTE IN SECOND CHAMBER COULD GO EITHER WAY.
GOULD
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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